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ELECTRIFICATION STATUS OF HUNGARIAN COMMUNITIES

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In compliance with a decree of the Central Statistical Office, data has been collected for public administration statistics of cities and communities. This was the first such statistical survey conducted in Hungary, and was necessary for work and planning in connection with founding local councils, and especially for the development of cities and communities. The survey also partially filled the need for accurate statistics on the status of communities.

The target date of the survey was 15 July 1950. The data included the latest administrative changes; communities and cities were classed according to population and according to counties. The city of Budapest did not figure in the data.

A portion of the survey related to the electrification status of communities.

A questionnaire distributed in connection with the survey asked whether there is electric service inside the community or city; whether the current is supplied by a local power plant or is drawn from a long-distance transmission line; and the year in which electricity was introduced into the community.

The Three-Year Plan expended 2 billion forints on the postwar reconstruction and electrification of towns, and provided them with social, cultural, and economic institutions. Community development is proceeding more rapidly under the Five-Year Plan.

Prior to socialization, privately owned power companies supplied only profit-earning establishments and places. Sparsely distributed villages and farms were not electrified even though power lines passed nearby. A great disparity existed between the electrification of villages and of cities. In 1938, one third of the total electrical energy produced was consumed by Budapest. In Budapest, annual electric consumption per person was 470 kilowatt-hours. In the provinces, including the cities, consumption was 140-kilowatt hours, and in the villages only, 50-60 kilowatt-hours per person. The national average per-capita consumption was 154 kilowatt-hours per year, which was low, compared to the 600-800 kilowatt-hour average of the USSR, or of western Europe.

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Much of the heavily damaged power-generating and transmitting installations were restored by the State Electrification Societies (AVIRT) before the beginning of the Three-Year Plan.

Under the Three-Year Plan, 100 million forints were allocated for providing electricity to 250,000 new village and rural consumers.

Production of electrical energy increased in the following proportions under the Three-Year Plan (1938 equals 100): 1947 and 1948, a total of 138.2 percent; August - December 1948, 153.3 percent; and 1949, a total of 168.5 percent.

The following table shows the distribution of electrified communities, according to population:

Population	No of Communities	No Electrified	Percent Electrified
up to 500	564	168	29.8
501 - 1,000	873	362	41.5
1,001 - 2,000	867	473	54.6
2,001 - 5,000	654	486	74.3
5,001 - 10,000	156	141	90.4
10,001 and above	55	53	96.4
Total (communities)	3,169	1,683	53.1
Total (cities)	53	53	100.0
Total (communities and cities)	3,222	1,736	53.9

Up to the time of the survey, all cities and 53.1 percent of the communities were electrified. Although 1,486 communities, nearly half the communities of the country, are still without electricity, 80 percent of the total population lives in electrified cities or communities. The population of non-electrified communities is one fifth of the total population of the country.

Most communities and cities, or a total of 96.5 percent, receive their electricity from power-transmission lines. Local power plants are located primarily in cities and large communities. In small communities, power for local consumption is usually supplied by a mill. The long neglect of electrification in small communities cannot be rectified overnight, and this is the reason that today, less than one third of the communities of under 500 population, and two fifths of the communities with 501 - 1,000 inhabitants are supplied with electricity.

According to the modified Five-Year Plan, the 1949 level of electrical energy production, which was 2,200 million kilowatt-hours, will be raised to 6,050 kilowatt-hours by 1954 instead of 4,270 kilowatt-hours as originally specified. The 1938 per-capita electrical energy production of 140 kilowatt-hours will be increased to 650 kilowatt-hours for 1954. This will mean more electricity for villages and partial electrification of agriculture, in addition to more power for industry and the cities.

The proportionate electrical supply of individual regions of the country does not deviate greatly from the national average, but there are nevertheless great differences among the various counties.

The rate of electrical development of the individual counties has been affected by geographical factors. Komarom and Veszprem counties are well developed because of their industrial and mining sites; electrification of Veszprem County is aided by its resorts; electrification of Pest County is aided by the presence of Budapest and Heves County, by the Matra mountain power installation; and Baranya County fares well because of its mining areas, etc.

The following table shows the progress of electrification of communities since 1920:

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Population	No Electrified	Up to 1920 No	%	1921-1929 No	%	1930-1938 No	%	1939-1944 No	%	1945-1950 No	%
up to 500	168	1	0.6	55	32.7	33	19.6	22	13.1	57	34.0
501 - 1,000	362	12	3.2	92	25.4	89	24.6	48	13.3	121	33.5
1,001 - 2,000	473	7	1.4	113	24.0	135	28.5	63	13.3	155	32.8
2,001 - 5,000	486	28	5.7	150	30.9	143	29.5	29	5.9	136	28.0
5,001 - 10,000	141	29	20.6	63	44.7	18	12.8	6	4.2	25	17.7
10,001 and above	53	23	43.4	26	49.1	4	7.5	--	--	--	--
Total (communities)	1,683	100	5.9	499	29.7	422	25.1	168	10.0	494	29.3
Total (cities)	53	45	84.9	8	15.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total (communities and cities)	1,736	145	8.3	507	29.2	422	24.3	168	9.7	494	28.5

Progress in the electrification of rural communities is indicated by the fact that the number of electrified rural communities rose steadily between 1945 and 1950, from 45 communities during 1945 - 1946 to 179 in 1947 - 1948 and 270 communities in 1949 - 1950.

The above figures contain data only up to 15 July 1950. Since liberation, electrification of most communities took place within the past year and a half.

Of the 1,683 communities electrified up to 15 July 1950, a total of 494, or 29.3 percent, were electrified after liberation. Under the capitalistic system, 1,189 communities were electrified in 6 decades, or an average of 20 communities per year. Greatest proportional electrification took place in those communities which were the most neglected before World War II. More communities have been included in the electrical network in Csongrad and Zala counties since the war than during the previous 6 decades. The communities which were electrified first were those through or near which power lines passed, but which received no electricity. Distribution of electricity was aided by extension of the power-transmission network.

Electric-energy production increased in the following proportions under the Three-Year Plan (1938 equals 100): 138.2 percent from 1947 to July 1948; 153.3 percent from August to December 1948, and 168.5 percent during 1949.

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